

year 1794 only nine letters are preserved as his correspondence), yet he wrote enough to acquaint us with his daily occupations. To his late colleague and successor in the State department, Edmund Randolph, he wrote the first letter of his retirement. In this he said: "I think it is Montaigne who has said that ignorance is the softest pillow on which a man can rest his head. I am sure it is true as to everything political, and shall endeavor to estrange myself to everything of that character. I indulge myself on one political topic only, that is, in declaring to my countrymen the shameless corruption of a portion of the representatives to the first and second Congresses and their implicit devotion to the Treasury." To Mr. Adams, the Vice-President, he wrote even more complacently: "The difference of my present and past situation is such as to leave me nothing to regret but that my retirement has been postponed four years too long. The principles on which I calculated the value of life are entirely in favor of my present course. I return to farming with an ardor which has got the better entirely of my love of study. Instead of writing ten or twelve letters a day, which I have been in the habit of doing as a thing of course, I put off answering my letters now, farmerlike, till a rainy day, and then find them sometimes postponed by other necessary occupations."

To Tenche Coxe, an old friend, he wrote in a vein which later furnished his opponents with a theme for much ridicule: "I am still warm whenever I think of those scoundrels [members of Congress who had profited by Hamilton's schemes], though I do it as seldom as I can, preferring infinitely to contemplate the tranquil growth of my lucern and my potatoes. I have so completely withdrawn myself from these spectacles of usurpation and misrule that I do not take a single newspaper, nor read one a month; and I feel myself infinitely happier for it." According to his farm book, his estate comprised a total of 10,647 acres, but the greatest area under cultivation at any one time never reached two thousand acres. His slaves numbered one hundred and fifty-four. His domestic animals at the beginning of 1794 were thirty-four horses, five mules, two him-